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              IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
              FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
3
                    WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON
4
    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
5
                 Plaintiff,
6
                                   CASE NO. 3:09-cr-128(1)
    Vs.
7
    DAVID ZOBEL,
8
                Defendant.
9
                     TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
10
                         GUILTY PLEA
11
    PRESIDING: THE HONORABLE WALTER HERBERT RICE
12
    DATE: January 8, 2010
13
    APPEARANCES:
14
    Brent G. Tabacchi, Esq.
15
    On Behalf of Plaintiff
    United States of America
16
    David P. Williamson, Esq.
    On Behalf of Defendant
17
    David Zobel
18
    Also Present: Agent Wendy Surikov
19
    REPORTED BY: DEBRA LYNN FUTRELL, CRR
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2.1
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Friday, January 8, 2010
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2
                          IN OPEN COURT
3
                            12:18 p.m.
                THE COURT: We do have case CR-3-09-128,
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    United States of America versus David Zobel.
5
    Defendant is in open court with counsel, Mr. David
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7
    Williamson. The government is present in the person of
8
    Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. Brent Tabacchi.
                Mr. Williamson, if you and your client would
10
    be good enough to come forward.
11
                (Counsel and the Defendant approached the
12
    lectern.)
13
                THE COURT: Good afternoon, sir.
                MR. WILLIAMSON: Good afternoon, your Honor.
14
15
                THE COURT: Mr. Williamson, have I
16
    pronounced your client's last name correctly?
17
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I believe so, your Honor,
    it's Zobel.
18
                THE COURT: Zobel. Mr. Williamson, your
19
20
    client, Mr. Zobel, is charged with five counts in an
21
    Indictment. Counts 1 and 2, coercion and enticement of
22
    a minor. Counts 3, 4, and 5, travel with intent to
23
    engage in illicit sexual contact with a minor. It's the
24
    Court's understanding that pursuant to Plea Agreement he
2.5
    will be entering a plea of guilty to Count 1 of that
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Indictment charging coercion and enticement of a minor in return for which ultimately Counts 2 through 5 will be dismissed. This charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years up to life imprisonment. There is nothing in the Plea Agreement as the Court reads it that would allow me to impose a sentence below that mandatory minimum.

In addition, the parties have agreed that a proper sentencing in this case will be somewhere between ten and 15 years, between a hundred and 20 and a hundred and 80 months. I indicated that I was amenable to such an agreement, that I would not, today, accept the Plea Agreement. I will defer a decision on whether to do so. If I find after evaluating all before me at the time of sentencing that I can sentence within that range, so be it. If I find that I cannot, that since I can't sentence lower, if I find that I must sentence higher, then you have the right, if you wish, to withdraw the plea of guilty and begin again. Is that all to your understanding, sir?

MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And Mr. Tabacchi, that of the

23 government?

2.0

2.5

MR. TABACCHI: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Zobel, is that your

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1
    understanding?
2
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
 3
                THE COURT: Do you wish to enter a plea of
    quilty, then, to Count 1 of the Indictment?
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5
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
                THE COURT:
                            Before we can make a
 6
7
    determination, sir, as to whether to accept a plea of
8
    guilty from you, we have to ask you certain questions.
    And in order to guarantee that those questions are
9
10
    answered both truthfully and completely, we do ask that
    you take an oath. So would you be good enough to raise
11
12
    your right hand?
1.3
                Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole
    truth, nothing but the truth, so help you God?
14
15
                THE DEFENDANT: I do.
16
                THE COURT: All right, sir. You are David
    Zobel?
17
18
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Yes, sir.
19
                THE COURT: How old are you, sir?
2.0
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 32 years old.
21
                THE COURT: How much education have you had?
22
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 I have a Master's degree.
23
                THE COURT:
                           In what field?
24
                THE DEFENDANT: Music performance.
2.5
                THE COURT:
                             What types of work have you done
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1 as an adult? 2 THE DEFENDANT: I have been a church 3 musician. I have been a freelance classical pianist. Ι have been an accompanist and vocal coach and choir 4 director. 5 THE COURT: All right, sir. This may well 6 7 seem like an insulting question but it's one I have to 8 ask of everyone who appears before me, can you read and write? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 11 THE COURT: Do you have any difficulty 12 understanding me as I sit here talking to you? 13 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 14 THE COURT: Do you understand that by virtue 15 of just having taken an oath to tell the truth that you 16 could be prosecuted later on for perjury or false 17 swearing if it turns out that what you've told us today 18 is not true, do you understand? 19 THE DEFENDANT: I understand you. 20 THE COURT: Now, sir, you've indicated a 21 willingness to enter a plea of guilty to a charge of 22 coercion and enticement of a minor. I'm going to read 23 certain facts to you. These are the facts behind that 24 charge. These are the facts to which you are pleading 2.5 quilty. After I've read these facts to you, I will ask

you if they are correct.

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According to these facts, beginning in approximately December of 2008, you were residing in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and beginning in December of 2008 you engaged in a series of sexually-explicit on-line chats with numerous minor females from around the country, including a 13-year-old girl from Xenia, Ohio that we will refer to as J.C. Although you participated in these chats with a wide range of purported female minors, you focussed considerable attention on J.C. Ιn particular, with the assistance of your computer, the Internet and your cellular telephone, you, while you were in Michigan, used on-line chats and text messaging to persuade J.C. in Ohio to participate in sexual activities. Namely, oral sex with you during approximately the January 2009 time frame. During these communications, you, who was then over the age of 18, knew that J.C. in fact was under the age of 16 or, at a minimum, you acted in reckless disregard of her actual age.

Additionally, on or about June 2nd, 2009, you once again had inappropriate sexual contact with J.C. Before doing so, you exchanged a series of text messages from Michigan with J.C. in Ohio. In these text messages, J.C. asked you to help her run away from her

home. She indicated that she would make any assistance that he provided her worth his time -- worth your time. You responded that you were horny and would get J.C. a hotel room. Hmmm. End of quote. You further inquired of J.C. and one of her friends who was 12 would, quote, do anything you wanted, close quote, if he helped them, J.C. and her friend, run away from Ohio.

2.5

You ultimately proceeded to Xenia where you picked up the two minor girls. You then drove them to a parking garage in Toledo, Ohio. At this location you had both J.C. and her 12-year-old companion perform oral sex on you. You further took pictures of the girls posing either in their bras or with their bare breasts exposed. You then left the girls in the parking garage giving each of them \$20.

Around the time you participated in these sexual activities with J.C. and her friend, you were also downloading from the Internet and distributing to other people known images of child pornography. For example, for instance, you downloaded from the Internet to your computer at least 61 images of child pornography, at least one of which had moved or been transported in interstate commerce. Are those facts correct?

THE DEFENDANT: Those are largely correct.

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There are two minor changes I believe that we have in
1
2
    that Statement of Facts but aside from those, yes, your
3
    Honor.
 4
                MR. WILLIAMSON:
                                  Your Honor, may I --
                THE COURT: Give me one moment, please.
 5
                (Brief pause.)
 6
7
                THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Williamson.
8
                MR. WILLIAMSON: Your Honor, my apologies to
    the Court. The U.S. Attorney and I made some
9
10
    last-minute changes to the Statement of Facts.
11
    Particularly, there's one paragraph and one phrase in
12
    the last paragraph that were changed. And I apologize
13
    that I did not get that before the Court. But the
    Statement of Facts that you read is not the final
14
15
    version that he signed here this morning.
16
                THE COURT: Would someone give me the final
    version?
17
18
                                  Thank you, your Honor.
                MR. WILLIAMSON:
19
                MR. TABACCHI: Your Honor, we delivered a
    copy to your chambers, this morning.
20
21
                THE COURT: Let's begin at the beginning.
22
    Beginning in approximately -- delete everything, Mr.
23
    Zobel, that I have said, although certainly it will
24
    remain on the record, and let me again read you a
2.5
    Statement of Facts that are behind the charge to which
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you are pleading guilty. These are the facts set forth against you in Count 1 of the Indictment. After I have read these facts, I will ask you if they are correct.

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Beginning in approximately December 2008, you were residing in Ann Arbor, Michigan and you engaged in a series of sexually explicit on-line chats with numerous minor females from around the country including a 13-year-old girl from Xenia, Ohio whom we will refer to as J.C. Although you participated in these chats with a wide range of purported female minors, you focussed considerable attention upon J.C. particular, with the assistance of your computer, the Internet and your cellular telephone, you, while you were in Michigan, used on-line chats and text messaging to provide J.C. in Ohio -- or rather to persuade J.C. in Ohio to participate in sexual activities. Namely, oral sex with you during approximately the January 2009 time During these communications, you, who were then over the age of 18, knew that J.C. in fact was under the age of 16 or, at a minimum, acted in reckless disregard of her actual age.

Additionally, on or about June 2nd, 2009, you once again had inappropriate sexual contact with J.C. Before doing so, you exchanged a series of text messages from Michigan with J.C. in Ohio. In these text

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messages, J.C. informed you that she and a friend of
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2
    hers whom J.C. described as, quote, 14 and yes, she is
    cute, close quote, had run away from home.
3
    responded, quote: Maybe I should drive down and get you
 4
    two a hotel room, hmmm. Close quote. J.C. replied,
5
6
    quote: If you come down here, friend -- and friend is
7
    added to make the sentence more easily understandable --
8
    quote, if you come here, the friend will do whatever you
    want, close quote. After agreeing on a place to meet,
9
10
    you inquired, quote: And you guys will do anything I
11
    want? Close quote. It's a question. And you guys will
12
    do anything I want? Question mark, close quote.
13
                You ultimately proceeded to Xenia where you
    picked up two minor girls. You then drove them to
14
15
    a park -- excuse me.
                You ultimately proceeded to Xenia where you
16
    picked up the two minor girls. You then drove them to a
17
18
    parking garage in Toledo, Ohio. At this location you
19
    had both J.C. and it says here your 12-year-old
20
    companion. Is that intended to remain, Mr. Tabacchi?
21
                MR. TABACCHI: Your Honor, it should read
22
    "and her 12-year-old companion."
23
                THE COURT: It says "and her 12-year-old
24
    companion."
2.5
                MR. TABACCHI:
                               Yes.
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THE COURT: Is that accurate?

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2 MR. TABACCHI: That is accurate.

THE COURT: All right. At this location, you had both J.C. and her 12-year-old companion perform oral sex on him. He further took pictures of the girls posing either -- you further took pictures of the girls posing either in their bras or with their bare breasts exposed. You then left the girls in the parking garage, giving them each \$20.

Around this time you participated in the sexual activities with these minors you were also downloading from the Internet known images of child pornography. For instance, you downloaded from the Internet to your computer at least 61 images of child pornography, at least one of which had moved or been transported in interstate commerce. Are those facts correct?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that those are the facts behind the charge of coercion and enticement of a minor to which you are pleading guilty?

THE DEFENDANT: I understand.

THE COURT: Do you have any questions at all either as to the nature of this charge or what it is you're pleading to?

THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.

THE COURT: Now, Mr. Williamson, even though there is a mandatory minimum sentence involved and even though the parties have agreed upon or agreed to recommend to the Court a sentencing range, this is a sentencing guidelines case still in the sense that the Guidelines as always form a point of departure in my determining a sentence sufficient but no more than necessary to carry out the purposes of sentencing. With that in mind, I have a number of questions for you, which I will ask seriatim before seeking an answer.

First, have you discussed the Guidelines with your client? Have you advised him of the mandatory minimum sentence? Have you advised him that the Guidelines are advisory only, that they're no longer binding on me? Have you discussed with him -- or calculated rather a sentencing guideline range? And have you discussed with him under this Plea Agreement there is no way he could receive a sentence of less than 10 years.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Yes to all of your questions, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Would you share with us any sentencing guideline range that you calculated?

MR. WILLIAMSON: Your Honor, my calculation,

and I have shared this with my client, first of all, that to the best of our knowledge and information he would be in criminal career category number I, and that given the base level with adjustments would result in a calculation of number 34 which is 151 to 188 months and provided he were to receive the deductions for acceptance of responsibility would result in a number 31 with a range of 108 to 135 months.

THE COURT: Or because of the mandatory minimum in reality 120 to a hundred and 35 months.

MR. WILLIAMSON: That is correct, your
Honor. My client and I have discussed that.

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THE COURT: All right, sir. Mr. Zobel, have you had these discussions with your Attorney?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Knowing your lawyer as I do, I'm certain he's very thoroughly explained the sentencing laws to you. However, I'm required to do so one more time here in this courtroom. My task as a judge is to impose a sentence that is sufficient, in other words, enough, but no more than necessary to carry out the purposes of sentencing. The way I get to such a sentence is first to determine a sentencing guideline range. Now that range isn't binding on me. In other words, I don't have to sentence you within that range

1 but I am required to at least consider it along with all 2 of the other factors of sentencing, do you understand? 3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. THE COURT: The way I get to such a range, 4 Mr. Zobel, is to look at two things. First, I need to 5 6 learn all I can about the particular charge to which you 7 have pled guilty. I need to know such things as whether 8 you've accepted responsibility, your role in the offense and many other factors. And based upon all of these 9 10 considerations and more, I come up with a certain total 11 of points, do you understand? 12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 1.3 THE COURT: Then I look at your past criminal record or lack of one and I come up with a 14 15 second total of points, a completely different point 16 total, do you understand? THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 17 18 THE COURT: Then I take these two very 19 different point totals and I look at the law and the law gives me a suggested range of sentencing which in your 2.0 21 case your Attorney estimates is somewhere between a 22 hundred and eight to a hundred and 35 months, somewhere 23 between nine years and eleven years, three months. 24 because there is a required ten-year or 120-month

minimum, that non-binding sentencing range in your case

2.5

is a hundred and 20 to a hundred and 35 months. Do you understand?

2.5

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

understand that your Attorney's estimate of a guideline sentencing range of a hundred and 20 to a hundred and 35 months that, while it's a very educated estimate, it's an estimate only and that it's not the final decision on the sentencing range. The final decision will be reached by the Court with the help of the probation department and that if you and Mr. Williamson disagree with my decision on the sentencing range, then you could appeal that decision to a higher court known as the Court of Appeals, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Now once I have that sentencing range determined, I put it aside for a moment and I consider all of the other factors of sentencing. For example, again I have to make certain that I know all there is to know about the particular charge to which you are pleading guilty, I need to learn as much about you as I can from your earliest years to the present time. I have to consider the public's interest in safety and in fair punishment, punishment that will promote for the law. I have to consider the public's

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2.5

9 different from sentences I've given others who have
10 committed similar crimes in the past. Do you
11 understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Now, considering all of those things including that non-binding sentencing range of a hundred and 20 to a hundred and 35 months, I then come up with a sentence that is sufficient, enough, but no more than needed to carry out the purposes of sentencing. And in your case that sentence could be anywhere from 10 years to life imprisonment, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Based on the Plea Agreement, you and the government are recommending to me that I impose a sentence of between a hundred and 20 months, 10 years and a hundred and 80 months, 15 years, do you understand

1 that? 2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 3 THE COURT: Do you understand that 4 considering all of the factors of sentencing that we've just discussed, I will determine whether such a 5 6 recommended sentence is sufficient but no more than 7 needed to carry out the purposes of sentencing. And if 8 I feel it is, I will sentence you within that ten to 15-year range. If I feel it isn't, if I feel it's not 10 adequate, then I will offer you the opportunity to 11 withdraw from the Plea Agreement, do you understand, 12 sir? THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 13 14 THE COURT: Now, in addition to a possible 15 sentence of 10 years to life imprisonment, do you 16 realize that you could be required to pay a fine of up to \$250,000? 17 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir. 19 THE COURT: Do you realize that in addition you will be required to pay a one-hundred-dollar fine to 20 21 a fund that the government uses to help crime victims? 22 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 23 THE COURT: And do you understand that at 24 the end of whatever sentence I give you that you will 2.5 have to be supervised as though you were on parole in

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1
    your community for a period of at least five years and
2
    it could be up to the rest of your life, do you
    understand?
3
 4
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Do you feel, sir, that you fully
 5
6
    understand the fines and the penalties that could result
7
    from a plea of guilty this afternoon?
8
                THE DEFENDANT: I believe so, your Honor.
9
                THE COURT: Has Mr. Williamson your lawyer
10
    gone over all of this with you?
11
                THE DEFENDANT: He has.
12
                THE COURT: Has he told you anything
13
    differently than I have?
14
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                No, sir.
15
                THE COURT: Do you have any questions?
16
                THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.
                THE COURT: All right. Now, have you told
17
18
    your lawyer Mr. Williamson everything you know about
19
    this case? Not only Count 1, but all of the charges
20
    against you?
21
                THE DEFENDANT: I have, your Honor.
22
                THE COURT: Have you held any information
23
    back from him?
24
                THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.
2.5
                THE COURT: Is he as aware as you can make
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him of the facts of this case?
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2
                THE DEFENDANT: He is.
 3
                THE COURT: Has Mr. Williamson told you that
    you basically have two choices and only two choices in
4
    this case. One is to plead not quilty to all charges
5
    and go to trial. The other choice is to work out a Plea
 6
7
    Agreement with the government. Has he told you that
8
    those are your choices?
                THE DEFENDANT: That has been my
10
    understanding, sir.
11
                THE COURT: And has he told you this?
12
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
1.3
                THE COURT: Has he told you that whatever
    choice you make must be yours and yours alone?
14
15
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
16
                THE COURT: Is the decision to plead guilty
17
    to Count 1 this afternoon your decision?
18
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, it is.
19
                THE COURT: Is it your decision alone?
2.0
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 It is.
21
                THE COURT: Now, when Mr. Williamson was
22
    discussing with you your other choice, the one not
23
    taken, pleading not quilty and going to trial, did he
24
    discuss with you things you could do to help defend
2.5
    yourself either before trial or during trial?
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1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 2 THE COURT: And to the extent you're able to 3 tell, are you satisfied with the advice and the legal services that Mr. Williamson has given you? 4 5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. THE COURT: Without going over them again at 6 7 this point, sir, are you aware of the fines and the 8 penalties that could result from a plea of quilty this afternoon? 9 10 THE DEFENDANT: I am. 11 THE COURT: Are you presently on probation 12 or parole? 13 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. Now, based on the little that 14 THE COURT: 15 we've discussed and on the more extensive discussions 16 you've had with your Attorney, is it still your wish to 17 enter this plea of guilty? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 19 THE COURT: You have, sir, a number of 20 rights given you by law and by the constitution that 21 you're going to be giving up by pleading guilty this 22 afternoon. Knowing your lawyer as I do, I'm certain 23 he's gone over each and every one of these rights with 24 you. I'm required to do so one more time here in this 2.5 courtroom.

One of the rights you have that you give up is the right to plead not guilty to all charges and to go to trial, and at that trial to stick with these pleas of not guilty throughout, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

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give up by pleading guilty is the right to plead not guilty to all charges, to go to trial, and at that trial to claim the benefit of what we call the presumption of innocence. That simply means that you begin the trial presumed to be innocent, in other words, not guilty of the charges against you, and the jury is told that you must be found innocent, found not guilty on any charge on which the government doesn't prove your guilt by proof beyond a reasonable doubt at trial, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Do you realize that that's simply a long way of saying that you're innocent on a particular charge unless the government is able to prove your guilt on that charge by proof beyond a reasonable doubt at trial, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: I do, sir.

THE COURT: Another right you have, sir, is the right to plead not guilty to all charges, to go to

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    trial, and at that trial to have those charges heard by
2
    a jury of 12 persons, do you understand?
 3
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Do you understand that those 12
 4
    persons would hear all of the facts of your case, the
5
    facts that the government brings out and any facts that
6
7
    you and Mr. Williamson decide to bring forth and then at
8
    the end of the trial the jury would decide whether you
    were guilty or not guilty on any one or more or all of
9
10
    the charges, do you understand?
11
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                I do, sir.
12
                THE COURT: And do you understand that the
13
    right to a jury trial is a right given you by law and by
14
    the constitution and that the only way you'll not have a
    jury trial is if you come here into court, tell me that
15
16
    you understand you have the right to such a trial but
    wish to give it up, do you understand?
17
18
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
19
                THE COURT: Now, is this a correct
20
    statement? You understand you have the right to a jury
21
    trial but you wish to give up that right in order to
22
    plead quilty this afternoon to Count 1 of the
23
    Indictment?
24
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 That is correct, sir.
2.5
                THE COURT: All right. Do you understand
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that you do have the right to plead not guilty to all charges and to go to trial, and if the government would agree you could go to trial without a jury, you would waive or give up your right to a jury trial and ask the judge alone to hear your case and to decide your guilt or innocence on any one or more or all of these charges, do you understand?

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THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that by pleading guilty this afternoon you're giving up whatever rights you may later be found to have with regard to a jury deciding sentencing issues and you are agreeing to allow me to do so, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: I do, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand that you have the right to plead not guilty to all charges, to go to trial, and at that trial to have here in this courtroom all of the people who accuse you of these charges so that your lawyer, Mr. Williamson, can question or cross-examine those people under oath at trial, do you understand?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Do you understand you have the right to plead not guilty to all five charges and to go to trial, and at that trial force the government to try

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    to prove your quilt beyond a reasonable doubt on each
2
    charge to the satisfaction of all 12 jurors, do you
    understand?
3
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
 4
                           Do you understand that as
                THE COURT:
 5
6
    someone who's been charged with crimes such as you've
7
    been by an Indictment that it's not your job to prove
8
    that you're innocent on any charge, do you understand?
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
10
                THE COURT: Do you understand that you have
11
    absolutely nothing at all to prove in this case?
12
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
1.3
                THE COURT:
                            Do you understand that the only
14
    proving that has to be done has to be done by the
15
    government?
                                 I understand.
16
                THE DEFENDANT:
17
                THE COURT: And do you understand that it's
18
    the government's job to try to prove your guilt beyond a
19
    reasonable doubt on each charge to the satisfaction of
20
    all the jurors at trial, do you understand?
21
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Yes, sir.
22
                THE COURT: And do you understand that on
23
    any charge on which the government doesn't or can't
24
    prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt that you
    would be found not guilty, do you understand?
2.5
```

1 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 2 THE COURT: In spite of what we've just 3 talked about, Mr. Zobel, and agreed to, has anyone told 4 you that you did have to prove that you were innocent on any charge? 5 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 6 7 THE COURT: Has anyone told you that you had 8 anything at all to prove? No, your Honor. THE DEFENDANT: 10 THE COURT: Do you understand that you have 11 the right to plead not quilty on all charges, to go to 12 trial and at that trial to ask your lawyer, Mr. 13 Williamson, to issue court orders that we call subpoenas 14 that would bring here into this courtroom anyone who 15 might be able to testify for you as your witness in your defense at trial, do you understand? 16 17 THE DEFENDANT: I understand. 18 THE COURT: Do you understand that by 19 pleading quilty this afternoon you're giving up your 20 right to appeal anything that has occurred in your case 21 before coming to court today, do you understand? 22 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 23 THE COURT: Do you understand that you have 24 what we call an absolute right to remain silent, that 2.5 you're not required to make any statement at all about

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1
    this case or plead quilty, do you understand?
2
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
 3
                THE COURT: Do you understand that you're
    not required to plead quilty to anything that might
4
    bring about the fines and the penalties that we've
5
 6
    discussed?
7
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Yes, your Honor.
8
                THE COURT:
                            Now once again, sir, but now for
9
    the last time, are you aware that a plea of guilty to
10
    this charge carries a sentence of anywhere from 10 years
11
    to life imprisonment?
12
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
13
                THE COURT: Are you aware that it carries a
    possible fine of up to $250,000 and that, in addition,
14
    you will have to pay a one-hundred-dollar fine to a fund
15
16
    that the government uses to help crime victims, do you
    understand?
17
18
                                 Yes, your Honor.
                THE DEFENDANT:
19
                THE COURT: Do you understand that at the
20
    end of any prison sentence I impose that you will have
21
    to be supervised in your community as though you were on
22
    parole for a period of at least five years and it could
23
    be up to the rest of your life, do you understand?
24
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
2.5
                THE COURT: Again, I will ask you if you
```

```
1
    feel you fully understand the fines and penalties that
2
    could result from a plea of guilty this afternoon?
 3
                THE DEFENDANT: I believe I do, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Has Mr. Williamson your lawyer
 4
    gone over all of that with you?
5
 6
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 He has.
7
                THE COURT: Has he told you anything
8
    differently than I have?
                THE DEFENDANT:
9
                                No, sir.
10
                THE COURT: Do you have any questions?
11
                                No.
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                      Thank you.
12
                THE COURT: Do you understand that if you
13
    were to plead not guilty to these charges and to go to
    trial that at that trial you would not have to testify
14
    or call witnesses to testify for you unless you chose to
15
16
    do so, do you understand?
17
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
18
                THE COURT: Do you understand that by
19
    pleading quilty this afternoon you're giving up your
20
    right to a trial in your case?
21
                THE DEFENDANT: I understand.
22
                THE COURT: And do you understand that if I
23
    accept this plea of quilty there will be no trial in
24
    your case?
2.5
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Yes, your Honor.
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1
                THE COURT: And do you understand the only
2
    other time you'll be here in this courtroom on your case
    is after I have reviewed the Presentence Report and have
3
    called you in for sentencing, do you understand?
4
5
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Do you understand that by
 6
7
    pleading guilty this afternoon you're giving up each and
8
    every one of these rights that we've just discussed?
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 I understand.
10
                THE COURT: Do you feel you understand these
11
    rights?
12
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I believe I do, sir.
1.3
                THE COURT: Do you have any questions at all
14
    about them?
15
                THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.
16
                THE COURT: Has your lawyer, Mr. Williamson,
17
    gone over each and every one of these rights with you?
18
                                 He has.
                THE DEFENDANT:
19
                THE COURT: Has he told you anything
20
    differently than I have?
21
                THE DEFENDANT:
                               No, he has not.
22
                THE COURT:
                            Do you have any questions?
23
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                No, sir.
24
                THE COURT: Do you give these rights up at
    this time?
2.5
```

THE DEFENDANT: I do.

2.5

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Williamson, why don't you and your client be comfortable at counsel table while Mr. Tabacchi reads the Plea Agreement into the record.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Tabacchi.

MR. TABACCHI: Thank you, your Honor. The following is the plea agreement between the United States of America and David Zobel. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Defendant David Zobel individually and through his Attorney, David Williamson, and the United States Attorney's office for the Southern District of Ohio, collectively, the parties, hereby agree as follows.

- 1. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to
 Count 1, coercion and enticement of a minor in violation
 of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2422(b), of the
 Indictment in this case. Defendant admits that he is in
 fact guilty of the offense charged in Count 1 of the
 Indictment, and that the Statement of Facts, which is
 attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by
 reference, is true and correct.
- 2. The statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United

States Code, Section 2422(b) is: At least 10 years and up to life imprisonment, at least five years and up to a lifetime period of supervised release, a fine of \$250,000 and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.

2.5

- 3. Defendant understands that Defendant will be required to pay full restitution to the victims of the offense. Defendant agrees that Defendant will not seek the discharge of any restitution obligation in whole or in part in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.
- 4. Defendant understands that as a condition of supervised release under 18 U.S.C. Section 3583(d) he will be required to register as a sex offender.
- 5. Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Defendant and the USAO agree that an appropriate disposition of this case is that the Court impose a sentence within the range of a hundred and 20 to a hundred and 80 months imprisonment, up to a lifetime period of supervised release, a fine and restitution as determined by the Court and a one-hundred-dollar mandatory special assessment. Defendant understands that the Court will order the United States probation office to prepare a Presentence Investigation Report. Defendant further

understands that the Court may accept this Plea Agreement, reject it or defer decision until the Court has reviewed the PSR. Defendant further understands that, if the Court accepts this Plea Agreement, the agreed disposition herein will be included in the judgment of conviction. The parties agree that, if the Court rejects this Plea Agreement, Defendant may withdraw from this Plea Agreement so long as the Defendant has not breached this agreement. If the Court rejects the Plea Agreement and Defendant does not withdraw from this Plea Agreement, Defendant may be sentenced to terms less favorable than those contemplated in the Plea Agreement. The USAO may, in its discretion, withdraw from this Plea Agreement if the Defendant breaches this Plea Agreement or the Court rejects the Plea Agreement.

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6. To assist the Court in assessing the propriety of the disposition set forth in paragraph 5, the parties agree for the purpose of calculating an advisory sentencing guideline range to the following Base Offense Level and specific offense characteristics which the parties recommend be considered by the Court at the time of sentencing.

Namely, the Base Offense Level of 28 under U.S.S.G. Section 2G1.13(a)(3), namely a conviction under

1 18 U.S.C. Section 2422(b). A two-level enhancement
2 under U.S.S.G. Section 2G1.3(b)(3) capital (B), use of a
3 computer. A two-level enhancement under U.S.S.G.
4 Section 2G1.3(b)(4), an offense involved commission of a
5 sexual act. And a two-level adjustment under U.S.S.G.
6 Sections 2G1.3(d) and 3D1.4, an offense involved
7 multiple minors.

2.0

2.5

To further assist the Court in assessing the propriety of the disposition set forth in paragraph 5, the parties reserve the right to argue and offer supporting evidence that other specific offense characteristics, adjustments and departures are appropriate as well as offer evidence and argument relating to the factors of sentencing set forth in 18 U.S.C. Section 3553(a).

- 7. Defendant agrees that he will plead guilty as set forth in this agreement and will pay to the United States clerk of court prior to or at the time of sentencing the mandatory special assessment in this case.
- 8. Defendant further agrees that he is not a prevailing party as defined by the Hyde Amendment, Public Law 105-119, Title VI, November 26, 1997, set forth as a Statutory Note under 18 U.S.C. 3006A, and hereby expressly waives filing any suit or asserting any

claim against the United States, including its agents and employees under this provision.

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- 9. If the Defendant complies fully with all Defendant's obligation's under this agreement:
- The USAO as well as the United States Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan agree not to file additional criminal charges against Defendant for violations both occurring in the Southern District of Ohio and the Eastern District of Michigan during the time period charged in the Indictment and arising out of the facts set forth in the attached Statement of Facts, including charges under 18 U.S.C. Sections 2251(a), attempted production of child pornography, 2252(a)(2), receipt and distribution of child pornography, and 2252(a)(4), possession of child pornography. Defendant understands that the USAO and the United States Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan are free to prosecute Defendant for any unrelated, unlawful past conduct or any unlawful conduct that occurs after the date of this agreement.
- B. The USAO agrees, provided that the

 Defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility

 for the offenses up to and including the time of

 sentencing, to recommend a two-level reduction in the

 applicable sentencing guideline offense level pursuant

to U.S.S.G. Section 3E1.1, and to recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.

1.3

2.5

- C. The USAO agrees to move to dismiss

 Counts 2 through 5 of the Indictment. Defendant

 understands that the Court may consider dismissed and

 uncharged counts in determining the applicable

 sentencing guideline range, where the sentence should

 fall within that range, the propriety and extent of any

 departure from that range, and a determination of the

 sentence to be imposed after a consideration of the

 sentencing guidelines and all other relevant factors.
- D. To recommend that Defendant be sentenced within the applicable sentencing guideline range provided that the total Adjusted Offense Level as calculated by the Court is at least 31 and provided that the Court does not depart downward in offense level or a criminal history category.
- no promises, understandings or agreements between the USAO and Defendant or Defendant's counsel. Except as set forth in paragraph 9(a) above, this agreement binds only the USAO and does not bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting authority.
 - 11. By signing this agreement, the

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1
    Defendant acknowledges that he has read this agreement,
2
    that he has carefully discussed the terms of this
    agreement with his Attorney, and that he understands and
3
    accepts those terms voluntarily without duress or
 4
    coercion and of his own free will. Defendant further
5
    agrees he is satisfied with the representation of his
6
7
    Attorney in this matter.
8
                Signed by all the parties, your Honor,
    including a facsimile signature from John O'Brien, the
9
10
    Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District
11
    of Michigan who is signing off on the Plea Agreement for
12
    that district.
13
                THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Tabacchi.
                                                       Mr.
    Williamson, if you and your client would be good enough
14
15
    to return.
16
                 (Counsel and the Defendant approached the
    lectern.)
17
18
                THE COURT:
                           Mr. Williamson, you've heard the
19
    reading of the Plea Agreement. Is that your
2.0
    understanding of it?
21
                MR. WILLIAMSON:
                                  It is, your Honor.
22
                THE COURT: Have you gone over it with your
23
    client and explained it to him?
24
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I have, your Honor.
2.5
                THE COURT: Do you feel he understands it
```

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1
    and is prepared to accept it?
2
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I do.
                THE COURT: Mr. Zobel, you've heard the
 3
    reading of the Plea Agreement. Is that your
4
5
    understanding of it?
 6
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                It is, your Honor.
7
                THE COURT: Has Mr. Williamson gone over it
8
    with you and explained it to you?
9
                THE DEFENDANT: He has.
10
                THE COURT: Have you reviewed it yourself?
11
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
12
                THE COURT: Do you feel that you understand
    it?
13
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
14
15
                THE COURT: Do you have any questions at all
16
    about it?
17
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                No, your Honor.
18
                THE COURT: Did you sign it?
                THE DEFENDANT:
19
                                 I have.
2.0
                THE COURT: And do you accept it?
21
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 I do.
22
                THE COURT: All right. The Court will defer
23
    a decision as to whether to accept the Plea Agreement
24
    until the time of sentencing, the period after the Court
2.5
    has reviewed the Presentence Investigation and all other
```

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relevant information.
1
2
                Mr. Zobel, other than in the Plea Agreement,
3
    has anybody at all made you any promises in order to get
    you to plead guilty?
4
 5
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Has anybody forced you or
 6
7
    threatened you or put any pressure on you of any kind in
8
    order to get you to plead quilty?
                THE DEFENDANT: Does that include
10
    threatening to obtain further Indictments and ask that
11
    the sentences be consecutive?
12
                THE COURT: That representation was made to
13
    you?
14
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
15
                THE COURT: Okay. Has that representation
16
    caused you to enter this plea of guilty?
17
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
18
                           Has it played a factor?
                THE COURT:
19
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 It has been a factor, yes.
20
                THE COURT: All right. One of the questions
21
    I will ultimately be asking you is whether your plea of
22
    quilty to this charge is voluntary?
23
                THE DEFENDANT: It is, your Honor.
24
                THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to it
    because you feel that you are guilty of it?
2.5
```

```
1
                THE DEFENDANT:
                               Yes, your Honor.
2
                THE COURT: Is it correct to say, and I
3
    don't want to put words in your mouth, that the threats
4
    of additional prosecutions has not made you admit guilt
    to a charge for which you feel you are not quilty, is
5
 6
    that correct?
7
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 That's correct.
                THE COURT: Mr. Tabacchi, I do not -- and
8
    I'm going to ask Mr. Williamson the same question.
9
10
    not feel the need for further questioning on this point.
11
    Your position.
12
                MR. TABACCHI:
                                I agree, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Mr. Williamson.
1.3
14
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I agree, your Honor.
15
                THE COURT: All right, sir. Has anybody
16
    promised you a particular sentence in terms of months or
17
    vears?
18
                                 No, your Honor.
                THE DEFENDANT:
19
                THE COURT: Has anybody guaranteed you that
20
    whatever sentence I give you will be within the ten to
    15-year range?
21
22
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Yes, your Honor.
23
                THE COURT:
                             That has been a guarantee?
24
                THE DEFENDANT: It has been my understanding
2.5
    that the terms of the 11(c)1(C) guarantee that it will
```

1 be within 10 to 15 years. 2 THE COURT: All right. Then I'll ask you to harken back to what I said earlier. Certainly, I will 3 consider that, along with the non-binding sentencing 4 range and all of the other factors of sentencing but I 5 am not guaranteeing you a sentence between 10 or 15 6 7 years. All I'm guaranteeing you is that I will consider 8 it along with all of the other factors, and if I find that I cannot impose a sentence of between ten and 15 9 10 years, you will have the right, if you wish, to withdraw your Plea Agreement, do you understand? 11 12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 13 THE COURT: Is that consistent with 14 everything that Mr. Williamson has discussed with you? 15 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: All right. Has he guaranteed 17 you or has anybody guaranteed you that I'm going to 18 sentence you between 10 and 15 years? 19 THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor. 20 THE COURT: Do you understand that if I 21 wish, if I feel that 15 years is not a heavy enough 22 sentence, I'll give you a chance to withdraw your plea. 23 We can go to trial. Do you understand on this charge if 24 you're convicted you could wind up with a life sentence? 2.5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

```
1
                THE COURT: Has anybody told you to the
2
    contrary?
                THE DEFENDANT:
 3
                                 No.
 4
                THE COURT: Has anyone told you that there's
    any way for you to get a sentence of less than 10 years
5
 6
    on this charge?
7
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
8
                THE COURT: Has anybody promised you a
    particular fine in terms of money?
9
10
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 No, your Honor.
11
                THE COURT: Has anyone told you that you
12
    wouldn't have to pay the special one-hundred-dollar fine
    to the victims' fund?
13
14
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
15
                THE COURT: Has anyone told you that upon
16
    release from whatever sentence I give you that you will
17
    not have to be supervised in your community as though
18
    you were on parole?
19
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                No, sir.
20
                THE COURT: Do you understand that as a
21
    result of this plea you will have to comply with sex
22
    registration laws, do you understand?
23
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 I understand, sir.
24
                THE COURT: Has anyone told you that that
2.5
    would not happen?
```

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1
                THE DEFENDANT:
                               No, sir.
2
                THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to this
3
    charge in Count 1 voluntarily?
 4
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 Tam.
                THE COURT: Are you pleading guilty to it
 5
6
    because you feel that you are guilty of it?
7
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
8
                THE COURT: Now, Mr. Tabacchi, can we agree,
    you and I, that any facts you read or would read would
9
10
    be substantially similar to the second version of the
11
    facts that I read?
12
                MR. TABACCHI: Yes, your Honor.
1.3
                THE COURT: We'll then dispense with any
    further reading of the facts. Mr. Zobel, I understand
14
15
    you're in custody but I still have to ask this question.
16
    Within the past 12 to 24 hours, have you had anything to
17
    drink or are you on any drugs or prescription medication
18
    that would make it difficult for you to understand me as
19
    I sit here talking to you?
2.0
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
21
                THE COURT: Do you feel you fully understood
22
    all that we've gone over?
23
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.
24
                THE COURT: Do you have any questions?
2.5
                THE DEFENDANT:
                                 No, sir.
```

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THE COURT: Mr. Williamson, do you consider
1
2
    your client competent to enter this plea of guilty?
3
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I do, your Honor.
                THE COURT: Do you feel he understands his
 4
    rights and is prepared to give them up?
5
 6
                MR. WILLIAMSON:
                                  I do.
7
                THE COURT: Mr. Zobel, do you have any
8
    questions on any subject at this point?
9
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
10
                THE COURT: Do you understand your rights?
11
                THE DEFENDANT: I believe I do, sir.
12
                THE COURT: Do you give those rights up at
    this time?
13
14
                THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.
15
                THE COURT: How then do you wish to plead to
    a charge of coercion and enticement of a minor?
16
17
                THE DEFENDANT: I wish to plead quilty, your
18
    Honor.
19
                THE COURT: All right, sir. Mr. Williamson,
    can we agree, you and I, that your client's activities
20
    with J.C. during January 2009 constituted unlawful
21
22
    sexual conduct with minors under the Ohio Revised Code?
23
                MR. WILLIAMSON: I agree, your Honor.
24
                THE COURT: All right, sir. Based on the
2.5
    dialogue do that this Court has had with the Defendant
```

```
1
    over the past 50 to 55 minutes or so and based upon his
2
    appearance and demeanor here in this courtroom, the
    Court would make the following seven findings.
3
                First, Defendant is in full possession of
 4
5
    his faculties and is competent to plead quilty.
6
                Second, he is not under the apparent
7
    influence of narcotics, hallucinogen or alcohol.
8
                Third, he understands the nature of the
    charge to which the plea is offered and the penalties
9
10
    provided by law.
11
                Fourth, he understands his Constitutional
12
    Rights and he knowingly and intelligently gives them up.
13
                Fifth, he is aware of the Plea Agreement
    made in his behalf and it is satisfactory to him.
14
15
                Sixth, there is a factual basis for his
16
    plea.
17
                Seventh, he has offered to plead guilty
18
    voluntarily because he is, in fact, quilty as charged.
19
    Accordingly, the Court would accept the plea of quilty
20
    for now and it will be made a permanent part of the
21
    record in this case.
22
                Now, Mr. Williamson, anticipating your
23
    request, we will refer your client's case to the United
24
    States Probation Department for Presentence Report.
2.5
    Final followup or disposition will be had after such
```

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time as the report has been prepared and both you and
1
2
    your client have had the opportunity to review it. Bond
    previously denied will likewise be denied at this point
3
    pending further order of the Court.
4
5
                Cindy, have we a recommended sentencing
6
    date?
7
                THE COURTROOM DEPUTY CLERK: Thursday, April
    8th at three o'clock.
8
9
                THE COURT: Thursday, April 8th at three
10
    o'clock, if convenient, sir.
11
                MR. WILLIAMSON: That's fine with me, your
12
    Honor.
1.3
                THE COURT: All right. Mr. Tabacchi.
14
                MR. TABACCHI: Yes, your Honor.
15
                THE COURT: Mr. Williamson, anything
16
    further?
17
                MR. WILLIAMSON: No, your Honor.
18
                THE COURT: Mr. Tabacchi?
19
                THE DEFENDANT: No, your Honor.
20
                THE COURT: Mr. Zobel, do you have any
    questions?
21
22
                                No, your Honor.
                THE DEFENDANT:
23
                THE COURT: Cindy, did I get that time
24
    correct?
2.5
                THE COURTROOM DEPUTY CLERK: Yes, sir.
```

```
(Proceedings concluded at 1:14 p.m.)
1
                       C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E
2
3
                 I, Debra Lynn Futrell, Notary Public in and
    for the State of Ohio at large,
4
5
                 Do Hereby Certify that the foregoing pages
6
    are a true and correct transcription of my stenographic
7
    notes taken of the proceedings held in the
8
    afore-captioned matter before the Honorable Walter
9
    Herbert Rice, Senior District Judge, to the best of my
10
    ability.
11
12
13
            S/Debra Lynn Futrell
           Debra Lynn Futrell, RMR-CRR
14
           Notary Public, State of Ohio
15
           My Commission Expires 12-27-13
16
17
18
19
20
2.1
22
23
24
25
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